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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - Summit of the Americas  
Paris Violence India-Pakistan U.S.- China Relations  
PARIS - Tuesday, November 08, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

Summit of the Americas  
Paris Violence  
India-Pakistan  
U.S.- China Relations

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

PM Villepin's televised performance last evening and the measures he announced to "ensure that security returns" to the troubled suburbs make up today's almost unanimous headlines. The revival of a 1955 law allowing mayors to impose a curfew is widely reported. The tone of today's titles and the pictures alongside them illustrate France's "State of Emergency" (Le Parisien.) Liberation headlines: "Villepin On The Warpath" and France Soir titles "Cities Gripped By Fear." The economic press also zeroes in on the curfew: "Villepin Announces Curfews." (Les Echos)

Economic writer Pierre-Yves Dugua pens an op-ed in Le Figaro titled "In the U.S., the Capitalistic Carrot and the Security Stick." Dugua analyses the basic differences between the French and U.S. social models: "The U.S. model, even if it is not equalitarian, favors integration." (See Part C)

Today's exception in media coverage is marker by Catholic La Croix, which devotes its lead to "Forgotten Kashmir" and the lack of solidarity to help the survivors of the earthquake. In her editorial Dominique Quinio writes: "Last evening in Paris, the well-known singer Francis Cabrel gave a concert for his New Orleans musician friends." "Who will sing for Kashmir?" she asks. Le Figaro analyzes the persisting rift between Delhi and Islamabad, "despite the tragedy, the most politicized ever." (See Part C)

Jean-Jacques Mevel in Le Figaro comments on China-U.S. relations, "the only ones that really count for Beijing. While the EU is a trade and technology partner, it has disappointed China politically." (See Part C)

Le Monde headlines that the 4th Summit of the Americas "Ended in Failure for Bush." (See Part C)

FM Douste-Blazy is said to "be baring his teeth" about the WTO. Liberation reports that France "is increasing the pressure on Mandelson: yesterday the FM accused Peter Mandelson of going beyond his mandate by making increasing concessions on the CAP." "No one should have any doubts about France's determination," he said during a press conference. Economic Les Echos interviews FM Douste-Blazy: "After all, President Bush is defending America's 'green power.' Why couldn't the EU do the same? . No one should doubt France's determination to disapprove a Hong Kong agreement if it undermines the CAP. We do not agree with Peter Mandelson's stance."

Le Figaro Economie reports that the IMF has "for the first time acknowledged that France's reforms are going in the right direction." The IMF has also "invited France to pursue structural reforms" in order to stabilize its public spending.

In an analysis entitled "Dr. Greenspan's Testament," Daniel Cohen writes in Le Monde: "The end of the Greenspan years marks not only a change of leadership but the end of an era. Greenspan, the man, had more luck than talent. But if Greenspan's time in office serves as a model it is especially because he was able to prove that a centralized bank could be interventionist and remain credible so long as it did not cater to the political ambitions of the powers that be."

A report in Le Figaro notes that Culture Minister Donnedieu de Vabres who recently visited the U.S. is a proponent of "cultural diplomacy." "Culture is a means for rapprochement." Le Figaro notes that he is the first member of the government to visit New Orleans after Katrina.

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

Summit of the Americas

"In the Americas, Free Trade Fails"

Christine Legrand in left-of-center Le Monde (11/08): "The Summit is a diplomatic failure for George Bush. He was not able to convince his neighbors in South America who, for the most part, have veered to the left politically and outwardly criticized the war in Iraq. The Summit was a failure for the American continent as a whole because what should have been the main themes of the discussions; the fight against poverty and unemployment, were overwhelmingly eclipsed."

Paris Violence

"From Words to Action"

Pascal Aubert in centrist La Tribune (11/08): "No one expected PM Villepin to take ready-made measures out of his hat. But what he did announce needed to be said. The first measures will not suffice. What is needed is the political will to go from words to actions: a step that takes political courage."

"Restoring Order"

Francoise Fressoz in right-of-center Les Echos (11/08): "PM Villepin's task is more difficult than PM Pompidou's during the May 68 student revolt. because there are no clear demands. His only weapons are his words and determination. Even if words in themselves are not sufficient, it was necessary to recall the need for order."

"A Sad Farce"

Jean-Michel Thenard in left-of-center Liberation (11/08): "The use of curfews and other legal measures set forth by the Prime Minister, which recall those used during the Algerian war, are the signs that France has made little progress in security issues. Villepin's answer is a poor one when in fact France's main problem is the failure of its social model of integration."

"In the U.S., the Capitalistic Carrot and the Security Stick"

Pierre-Yves Dugua in right-of-center Le Figaro (11/08): "America's model may not be equalitarian, but it is integrationist. While the U.S. may not have resolved the matter of its ghettos, it has reduced unemployment among its minorities. Capitalism does incite minorities to integrate into the economic system. In a nation where private enterprise is encouraged, the gratuitous destruction of private property is not tolerated. Capitalism also dictates the need to defend private property: Americans have a different relationship than the French to their police force. and the prolonged detention of delinquents is considered a positive measure for the protection of honest citizens."

India-Pakistan

"So Far"

Dominique Quinio in Catholic La Croix (11/08): "Pakistan does not elicit the interest of far-way donors. Pakistan's controversial relationship with its Indian neighbor is present in everyone's mind as is Pakistan's relationship to terrorism. Nevertheless there was a small ray of hope as the two enemies recently agreed to open a border point for humanitarian reasons."

"In Spite of the Tragedy, India and Pakistan Remain Divided"

Marie-France Calle in right-of-center Le Figaro (11/08): "Never before had a natural disaster been as politicized as the Kashmir earthquake. Yesterday, the line of control was not opened to the Kashmiri, despite the high-profile announcement made by Islamabad and Delhi. It may be opened soon. Musharraf is playing his own game: he knew when he made his announcement that India would be embarrassed into reacting. The missed opportunity of the LOC confirms, if confirmation were needed, that the hastily-reached agreement between the two capitals was more of a symbolic gesture than proof of a true desire to reshape history. The peaceful dividends of the earthquake are melting before our eyes."

U.S.- China Relations

"The Embargo Controversy Revived by Beijing"

Jean-Jacques Mevel in right-of-center Le Figaro (11/08): "China is pampering its relationship with the EU, all the while preparing to welcome the only interlocutor it considers worthwhile: President George Bush. China's busy touring of European capitals is not enough to hide its bitterness towards the EU. While Europe remains a financial, technological and trade partner, the EU-25 have fallen short of their political promises to China. Beijing is re-opening an old wound that internal European divisions will not be able to heal: the arms embargo, which the Chinese see as 'political discrimination.' Meanwhile, the Bush administration, which did everything it could to keep the embargo from being lifted, enjoys China's good graces. Beijing is about to sign an agreement on textiles with Washington. But of course this has nothing to do with President Bush's forthcoming trip to China." STAPLETON